

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-14 DODE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2339

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUGADOUGOU

USUN NEW YORK 1891

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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AFDROUGHT

SUBJECT: FAO MEETING ON SAHEL AND ETHIOPIA, DECEMBER 12.

SUMMARY

DG BOERMA HELD MEETING WITH PERM REPS DECEMBER 12 TO DISCUSS RECENT UN/FAO APPEAL FOR SAHEL AND REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY ETHIOPIA. COMMENTS RECEIVED FROM OTHER REPS ON ALLOCATION AND/OR INTENTIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENTS. OVERALL PLEA MADE FOR EARLY ACTION AND FULLEST SHARING INFORMATION IN ORDER PERMIT EFFECTIVE COORDINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON SHORT NOTICE FAO DG CALLED MEETING PERM REPS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12 FOR DISCUSSION NOVEMBER 26 UN/FAO APPEAL FOR SAHEL AND RECENT REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE BY UNCLASSIFIED

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ETHIOPIA. LACK ADVANCE NOTICE, DISCUSSION BOTH APPEALS

SIMULTANEOUSLY AND DISTRIBUTION DOCUMENTATION (COPIES POUCHED)
AT OPENING OF SESSION PREVENTED MEETING FROM BEING AS PRODUCTIVE
AS MORE CAREFULLY PLANNED SESSION MIGHT HAVE BEEN. BOERMA
OBVIOUSLY WISHED (A) USE RECENT US ALLOCATIONS 150,000 MT
SORGHUM AS STIMULUS CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER DONORS AND (B)
ENCOURAGE SHORT TERM RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR ETHIOPIA WHILE
GAINING GENERAL ACCEPTANCE FOR FAO ROLE IN HELPING MONITOR
SUPPLIES OF FOOD AID.

2. WITH REGARD SAHEL, DISTRIBUTED IN STATEMENT ON
"ACTION NEEDED" CITED US NEW ALLOCATION AS ONLY CONTRIBUTION
TO DATE TOWARDS 1974 MINIMAL REQUIREMENT OF 450,000 MT.
IT STRESSED INTENTION STOCK FOUR MONTHS SUPPLIES CERTAIN
REMOTE AREAS TO OBTAIN NEED AIRLIFT AND APPEALED FOR EARLY
DONATIONS AND SHIPPING. WHILE STATING AIRLIFTS NOT NOW
CONTEMPLATED, DOCUMENT SAID DONORS MIGHT KEEP PROBABLE AIRCRAFT
NEEDS DURING MAY AND JUNE IN MIND.

3. ETHIOPIAN FOOD NEED 1974 SHOWN IN DOCUMENT AS 100-120,000
MT FOOD AID (EXCLUDING PIPELINE ALLOCATIONS) PLUS 28,000
MT MILK POWDER. PIPELINE REFERENCE STATES THAT WHOLE 53,000
MT GRAIN COMMITTED BY DONOR GOVERNMENTS AND AGENCIES, ONLY
4,000 MT HAVE ARRIVED. WITH REGARD SHORT TERM RECOVERY
MEASURE ETHIOPIA, DOCUMENT LISTS SEVEN SKELETON PROJECTS
TOTALLING \$11.3 MILLION FOR WHICH FUNDS SOUGHT IN ORDER
IMPLEMENT ON URGENT BASIS IN NEXT TWO MONTHS. TOWARDS THESE
GERMANY (FRG) REPORTED TO HAVE PLEDGED \$1 MILLION FOR SEEDS.

4. US REP REPEATED AND EXPLAINED RECENT ALLOCATION 150,000
MT SORGHUM FOR SAHEL. HE EXPRESSED HOPE OTHER DONORS RESPOND
AT EARLY DATE IN ORDER POSITION STOCKS IN NEEDED AREAS PRIOR
RAINY SEASON. PROMISED KEEP FAO FULLY INFORMED US SHIPMENTS
AND ENCOURAGED FAO AND PROSPECTIVE DONORS SUPPLY FULLEST
INFORMATION ON COMMITMENTS AND SHIPMENTS TO ENLIST COORDINATION
AND PREVENT DUPLICATION OR CONGESTION IN PORTS. CITED
NECESSITY FOR ALL DO UTMOST AVOID COSTLY AIRLIFTS AND
QUESTIONED ADVISABILITY DG INCLUDING SOMEWHAT STANDBY ALERT
REFERENCE IN DOCUMENT. ALSO SPOKE RE STEPS US TAKING BILATERALLY
TO ASSIST SHORT TERM RECOVERY PROGRAMS IN SAHEL. CALLED
THIS COMPLEMENTARY TO MULTILATERAL AND OTHER BILATERAL MEASURES
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TAKEN. EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR INFORMATION ON ETHIOPIAN
AND PROMISED URGENT STUDY. INFORMED MEETING OF BILATERAL
ASSISTANCE ALREADY EXTENDED ETHIOPIA AND THAT DIRECTED
MULTILATERALLY THROUGH WFP.

5. FOLLOWING US, DG EXPRESSED FULL AGREEMENT ON NEED AVOID
AIRLIFT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR US
PROMPT RESPONSE TO APPEAL AND DECEMBER 7 VISIT ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATOR ADAMS. HE REPEATED VIEWS RE AVOIDING AIRLIFT AT CLOSE OF MEETING AND AFTER NIGERIAN REP HAD ENDORSED US COMMENTS THIS MATTER.

6. OTHER ANNOUNCED COMMITMENTS OR INTENTIONS WERE:
/SAHEL/ FRANCE WILL CONTRIBUTE 30,000MT FOOD GRAINS STARTING JANUARY 1974. BELGIUM HAS INTENTION SUPPLY 10,000 MT. WHEAT /ETHIOPIA/ AUSTRALIA WILL SUPPLY 12 MT PROTEIN RICH BISCUITS AND 2,000 MT WHEAT. (FYI-GOA ASKING FAO/WFP FIND MEANS TRANSPORT LATTER.) \$600,000 (AUSTRALIAN) RAISED BY PUBLIC APPEAL BUT AS YET NO DECISION RE USE. BELGIUM ANNOUNCED "INTENTION" SUPPLY 500 MT MAIZE THROUGH WFP AND ADDITIONAL 2,000 MT WHEAT (THROUGH WFP) UNDER 1973-74 FOOD AID CONVENTION. NETHERLANDS REPORTED SUPPLY \$100,000 CASH VIA UNICEF. NEW ZEALAND HAD GIVEN UNICEF \$50,000.

7. JUST PRIOR CLOSE OF MEETING AND SPEAKING FOR COMMUNITY, BELGIUM REP STATED EC 1974 BUDGET INCLUDES CONTRIBUTION TWO BILLION BELGIAN FRANCS FOR SAHEL AND ETHIOPIA. NO COUNTRY BREAKDOWN AS YET BUT 1,750,000,000 FRANCS ALLOCATED FOR STRUCTURAL PROJECTS AND 250,000,000 FRANCS FOR DIRECT FOOD AID.

8. MEETING CLOSED WITH REITERATION APPEAL FOR DONATIONS FOOD, TRANSPORT, AND CASH, FULLEST INFORMATION ON COMMITMENTS AND DONOR ACTION ALL ASPECTS AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE.BEAUDRY

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